15   MS#305263.01 (5078)
                                              PATENT

REMARKS

Applicant respectfully acknowledges the Examiner's indication of allowable subject matter in claims 6, 7, 18, and 27. Claims 1, 7, 15, and 23 have been amended and claims 5, 6, 17, 18, 26, and 27 have been canceled by this Amendment A.

Applicant requests entry of several minor amendments to the specification to improve the form of the application.

With respect to claim 6, Applicant has amended independent claim 1 to include the allowable subject matter of claim 6 and intervening claim 5. In addition, amended independent claim 15 includes the allowable subject matter of claim 18 and intervening claim 17 and amended independent claim 23 includes the allowable subject matter of claim 27 and intervening claim 26. Consequently, Applicant believes claims 1, 15, and 23 are in condition for allowance. Of the remaining claims, claims 2-4 and 7-14 depend from claim 1, claims 16 and 19-22 depend from claim 15, and claims 24, 25, and 28-31 depend from claim 23 and, thus, are allowable for at least the same reasons as the claims from which they depend.

SUMMARY & CONCLUDING REMARKS

For the reasons noted above, Applicant respectfully submits that claims 1-4, 7-16, 19-25, and 28-31 are in condition for allowance and respectfully requests favorable reconsideration of this application. Although the prior art made of record and not relied upon may be considered pertinent to the disclosure, none of these references anticipates or makes obvious the recited invention.

The fact that Applicant may not have specifically traversed any particular assertion by the Office should not be construed as indicating Applicant's agreement therewith.

The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any deficiency or overpayment of any required fee during the entire pendency of this application to Deposit Account No. 19-1345.

Respectfully submitted,

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